

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/002,977

Examiner

Jonathan G. Sterrett

Applicant(s)

FLORES ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2-20-07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20070226.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Roman Jeanty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3623

Allowance

1. Claim 1 is pending and allowed in the application. Please see the examiner's amendment and reasons for allowance below.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record is included in the Office Action. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David R. Flores on 3 March 2007. See attached interview summary.

3. Examiner amends claim 1 and cancels claims 2-21.

The following claim is the claim pending in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for developing an enterprise business strategy plan comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving via a graphic user interface a first information for setting the strategic direction of a company comprising:

receiving a description of the a current state of the company,

receiving a description of the a future vision for the company,

- receiving the a target date of the future vision and
- (b) processing the first information received to provide a first display of said current state, future vision and target date of the future vision;
- (c) receiving via a graphic user interface a second information defining a time-phased plan for implementing the future vision, the second information comprising:
- at least three separate and distinct sequential strategy development phases wherein the first phase begins at a current date and the last phase ends at the target date;
- (d) processing the received second information to provide a second display of the current state, the current date, a title of phase one, a title of phase two, a title of phase three, said future vision and said target date whereby the strategy is planned to be implemented so that the future vision is realized;
- (e) receiving via a graphic user interface a third information that defines a strategy platform integration, wherein the third information comprises:
- information defining a plurality of strategy platforms,
- information defining the corresponding strategy development phase where said strategy platforms are chronologically located,
- information defining the execution path and dependency for said plurality of strategy platforms;
- (f) processing the third information received for the strategy platform integration to provide a third display of an integration roadmap, where the integration roadmap displays said description of the current state of the organization as a polygon, said

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description of the future vision of the organization as a polygon, and said plurality of strategy platforms as each individual polygons that are displayed within their respective said strategy development phases, wherein the execution path and dependency of the strategy platforms is represented by interconnecting the strategy platform polygons with arrows;

(g) receiving via a graphic user interface a fourth information that comprises:

the said individual strategy platforms and four categories of requirements for each individual strategy platform;

at least one respective individual requirement for each said category of requirements;

an assessment of the respective individual requirements;

a list of deployment requirements for of each respective strategy platform element; and

a list of opportunities for the creation of value identified for each respective strategy platform element;

wherein the said categories of requirements are selected from the group consisting of Operational Requirements, Organizational Requirements, Technology Requirements and Knowledge Requirements;

wherein at least one individual requirement is received for each said four categories of requirements of the respective strategy platform; and

(h) processing the fourth information received in (g) to:

generate and display a polygon that is labeled with the name of one of the said individual strategy platforms and four adjacent polygons for each of the said categories of requirements for that individual strategy platform;

generate and display within each of the said four adjacent polygons a strategy platform requirements category label, wherein said requirements category labels are selected from the group consisting of operational, organizational, technology and knowledge;

generate and display within each of the said four adjacent polygons a list containing at least one requirement within a respective requirements category,

generate and display adjacent to each at least one said requirement a polygon that is shaded to annotate the degree to which the current organization fulfills the respective requirement;

wherein a fully shaded polygon indicates that the organization fully fulfills the respective requirement; and wherein a partially shaded polygon indicates the organization is partially fulfills the respective requirement; and wherein an unshaded polygon indicates that the organization does not fulfill the respective requirement;

(i) and further processing the fourth information received in (g) to additionally display a polygon that is labeled deployment requirements which displays a list of requirements for deployment; and to display an additional separate polygon labeled value creation opportunities which displays a list of opportunities for the organization to realize value creation.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claim 1** is allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The closest prior art is **McGrath**, Michael E; "Setting the PACE in Product Development", Chapter 7 - The Process of Product Strategy, 1996, Elsevier, pp.101-119. (hereinafter **McGrath**).

While McGrath discloses:

developing a strategy vision; identifying requirements for developing a strategy; developing strategy platforms as elements necessary to develop and implement a product strategy; identifying requirements that are required by individual platform elements; using phases to develop an approach for developing a strategic plan; identifying a target date for achieving a strategy plan; displaying a strategy roadmap at a high level that identifies a hierarchy of the product strategy from the vision to specific product development; displaying various strategy platforms in aggregate that show the various strategy platforms; displaying a time phased sequence of product line plans separate from each strategy platform;

McGrath fails to disclose:

receiving a first information and processing it to display a current state, future vision and target date for the future vision; receiving a second information and processing it to display a current state and date, a title of three phases; and an end date for phase three; receiving a third information and processing it to display a plurality of strategy platforms that are displayed in respective phases; where the positioning of the platforms and the use of arrows from one platform to another depict the execution path and dependency of the strategic platforms; receiving a fourth information that contains four categories of requirements for each strategic platform and at least one assessment of those requirements as to how an organization fulfills those requirements for each platform; a further list of deployment requirements and value creation opportunities for each platform element; processing the fourth information to display a polygon labeled with the name of one of the strategy platforms and four adjacent polygons for each of the four categories of requirements for that individual platform; generate and display based on the fourth information received a strategy platform requirements label selected from the group of operational, organizational, technology and knowledge; generating and displaying within each of the four adjacent polygons a list containing at least one requirement within a respective requirements category; and generating and displaying a polygon adjacent to each said requirement; where the adjacent polygon is shaded to annotate the degree to which the organization fulfills the requirement, wherein a fully shaded polygon indicates that the organization fully fulfills the requirement, wherein a partially shaded polygon indicates the organization partially fulfills the requirement, and

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wherein an unshaded polygon indicates that the organization does not fulfill the respective requirement; and further processing the fourth information to additionally display a polygon labeled deployment requirements that includes a list of requirements for deployment; and display an additional separate polygon labeled value creation opportunities that displays a list of opportunities for the organization to realize value creation; as recited in **Claim 1**.

McGrath discloses some of the features of the claimed invention, as discussed above. Even for some of the features disclosed by McGrath, those features are not combined in such a way as is disclosed by independent **Claim 1**.

The novelty of the invention is in the combination of the limitations cited in independent **Claim 1** and not in any specific individual claim limitation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

UK Patent GB 2363223 A by Kenny discloses a method for displaying strategic factors for stakeholders in a business.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan G. Sterrett whose telephone number is 571-272-6881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JGS

2-26-2007


Romain Leanty
Primary Examiner
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